

## **City of Independence Historic Landmark Designation Report**

**Hilliard/Higginbotham Residence  
728 North Main Street  
Independence, Missouri 64050**

### **Architectural Description**

Located at 728 North Main Street, the two-and-a-half story, single-family dwelling was constructed c.1915 in the Kansas City Shirtwaist style, with stone cladding on the first floor and clapboards found above. Exterior steel siding, that was recently added, likely encapsulates the original wood clapboard beneath. The front-facing gable roof is clad in composition shingles and displays a simplified, bellcast design with boxed returns. A similar design with lower pitch can be found on the front porch. Concrete steps lead from the sidewalk to the open front porch that spans the front façade on the first floor. A brick chimney extends from the south side of the roof.



The house retains its original wood windows and fenestration pattern including small bay windows that sit on both the north and south elevations. The house sits on a limestone foundation surrounded by minimal landscaping.

The home has a total of nine rooms including a living room with limestone fireplace, dining room with original window seat, kitchen, four bedrooms, sunroom, two full baths, and unfinished basement with exterior cellar entrance. Original oak floors are retained on the first and second floors with unpainted oak trim remaining on the first floor.

The property includes a two-car detached, garage, accessible via the alley, that was added in the 1970s. A brick patio with brick walkway leads to the garage. A small wooden deck is attached to the enclosed back porch.

The house lies on a flat lot, surrounded by single-family homes along the west side of Main dating from the late-nineteenth to the early-twentieth century and St. Luke's Church directly to the east.

### **Historical Background**

The house was likely built between 1910 and 1916 by husband and wife James & Mayme Hilliard. According to the Hilliard family, water and electricity was brought to the property in 1914. A previous home is shown on this lot on the 1907 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, however the current home is documented on the 1916 Sanborns.

James W. Hilliard was born in Independence, Missouri on November 8, 1883 to Silas and Martha Hilliard. Silas was a Civil War Veteran, though the details of his service are currently unknown. Mayme Louise (Hardin) Hilliard was born August 20, 1884. James and Mayme were married in Independence on December 22, 1906. James died on October 26, 1937 and Mayme passed on January 16, 1969. Both are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery.

After the death of her husband, Mayme and her son, James Hopkins Hilliard, lived in the home and also took in a variety of boarders. James later married Helen Lenore Reed on July 18, 1941. After serving in World War II, James Hilliard and his wife Helen moved back into the home and raised two children, Mary Helen Hilliard and Betty Jean Hilliard. Mayme continued to live with them in the home until just before her death when she entered a nursing home in Independence.

Gregg and Edith Higginbothom own the home today.

### Bibliography

Compilation of homeownership history, Past to Present Research

1907 & 1916 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

Civil War Pension Index 1861-1934

Missouri Marriage Records 1805-2002

1910, 1920, 1930, & 1940 United States Federal Census Records, Independence, Jackson County, Missouri